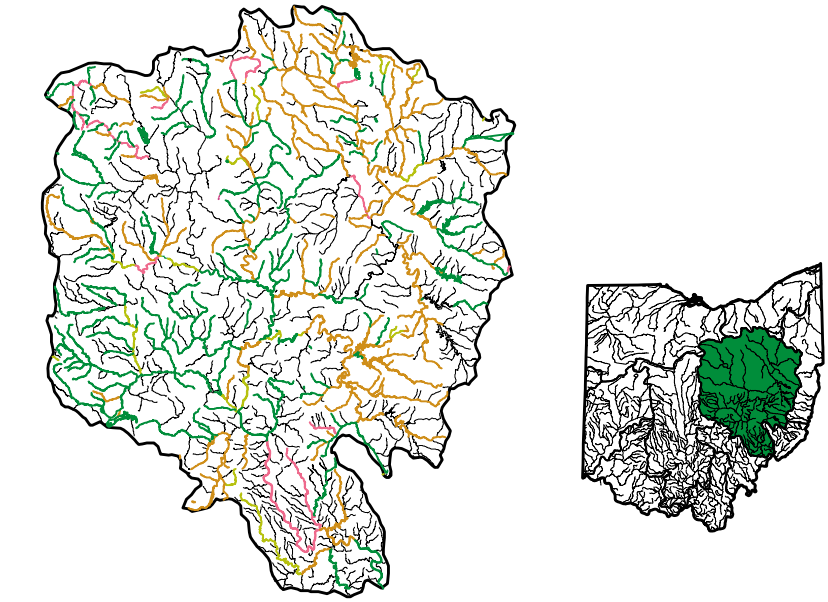
Ohio



This map depicts aquatic life use support status.

For a copy of the Ohio 1996 305(b) report, contact:

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Surface Water Quality

For the 1998 reporting cycle, Ohio provided an addendum to the state's 1996 305(b) report, focusing on aquatic life use support assessments performed during 1996 and 1997. Of the 3,023 river miles assessed for aquatic life use during this time period, 57% were fully supporting, 20% were partially supporting, and 22% were not supporting. The state identified habitat alterations, organic enrichment, siltation, metals, flow alterations, and nutrients as the major causes of aquatic life use impairment. The leading sources of aquatic life use impairment include hydrologic modifications, point sources, agriculture, mining, and urban runoff.

In the state's 1998 report, Ohio for the first time presented narrative ranges of biological integrity for rivers and streams. Ohio has narrative ratings that are matched to the state's aquatic life uses. Nearly 20% of the assessed streams were rated as excellent, indicating a high species richness and diversity of fish and macroinvertebrate assemblages. Thirty-nine percent were rated as good, indicating a well-balanced community of fish and macroinvertebrates comparable to reference conditions. Just under 26% were rated as fair, indicating that one or more organism groups deviate moderately from reference conditions. Fourteen percent were rated as poor, indicating situations where one or more organism groups deviates substantially from reference conditions. Only 2% of streams were classified as very poor, indicating a virtual absence of any aquatic life.

Ground Water Quality

About 4.5 million Ohio residents depend on wells for domestic water. Waste disposal activities, underground storage tank leaks, and spills are the dominant sources of ground water contamination in Ohio.

Programs to Restore Water Quality

Ohio is reworking its Nonpoint Source Management Plan by forming a number of working groups, such as the headwater streams

working group, that involve multiple agencies and other interested parties. These groups are charged with developing strategies with the ultimate goal of protecting Ohio's rivers and streams.

To fully restore water quality, Ohio EPA advocates an ecosystem approach that confronts degradation on shore as well as in the water. Ohio's programs aim to correct nonchemical impacts, such as channel modification and the destruction of shoreline vegetation.

Programs to Assess Water Quality

Ohio pioneered the integration of biosurvey data, physical habitat data, and bioassays with water chemistry data to measure the overall integrity of water resources. Biological monitoring provides the foundation of Ohio's water programs because traditional chemical monitoring alone may not detect episodic pollution events or nonchemical impacts. Ohio EPA found that biosurvey data can increase the detection of aquatic life use impairment by about 35% to 50%.

Ohio is developing biological assessment methods and criteria for depressional and riparian wetlands.

Individual Use Support in Ohio

Designated Use[a]	Percent: Good (Fully Supporting)	Good (Threatened)	Fair (Partially Supporting)	Poor (Not Supporting)	Not Attainable
Rivers and Streams (Total Miles = 29,113)[b]					
Total Miles Assessed	3,023	46	11	20	22	-
	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lakes (Total Acres = 188,461)					
Total Acres Assessed	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-	-
Great Lakes (Total Shore Miles = 236)					
Total Shore Miles Assessed	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-	-

Note: Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding.

– Not reported in a quantifiable format or unknown.

[a] A subset of Ohio's designated uses appear in this figure. Refer to the state's 305(b) report for a full description of the state's uses.

[b] Includes nonperennial streams that dry up and do not flow all year.